

DRESDEN ENTERPRISE

AND SHARON TRIBUNE

"THE WORLD MOVES."

DRESDEN, WEAKLEY COUNTY TENNESSEE, MAY 7 1915

NUMBER 6

Mother's Day.

Mothers' Day will be observed at the Dresden Methodist church Sunday morning, when an appropriate program will be rendered, consisting of addresses and special music. The adopted emblem is a pure white rose and all are to wear a white rose on next Sunday. Surely you can afford to put off all other plans for this and attend this special service, thus honoring the one to whom you owe the greatest honor.

GOV. RYE'S BILL VETOED CAPITAL BATTLE IS ON.

Dresden, Tenn., May 4.—Gov. Rye this afternoon returned from Nashville, where he had spent the day signing the bill, abolishing capital punishment, to the house with his veto. The measure in question had been passed by the house on its recess thirty days ago.

The bill, which had been passed by the house on its recess thirty days ago, was vetoed by the governor.

Gov. Rye's veto of the Bowers anti-capital punishment bill with the message follows:

To the Speaker of the house of representatives:
"This bill is known as a bill to abolish capital punishment, yet it specifically recognizes necessity for capital punishment in certain cases, i. e., rape and murder. As to the punishment for rape no change is made in existing laws, but in the case of murder the bill exempts from the death penalty all murderers except those convicted of murder who are at the time serving a life sentence in the penitentiary. So that, if a convict serving a life sentence commits murder he is to be electrocuted, but if the defendant is not a convict serving a life sentence, then he is to be imprisoned for life."

"If this means that instead of being electrocuted, the convicted defendant shall be confined in the penitentiary for life and the meaning of the sentence is that he shall be required to serve during his life as the price of exemption from the death penalty, then in that event the bill would be unconstitutional as violative of article 3, section 6, of the constitution, which provides that the governor shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons after conviction, except in cases of impeachment. If the bill is not subject to the this criticism, then by its terms and provisions, the only punishment that can be meted out to a person convicted of murder is a life sentence, which, under existing laws, would entitle him to a parole after twenty-five years, deducting good time. So that the effect of this bill would be to fix the minimum punishment for every murder committed, no matter under what circumstances, at twenty-five years in the state penitentiary."

"I would be gratified indeed to escape the responsibility that this bill affords the chief executive of

THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL LAW UPHOLD.

A decision was rendered by the supreme court at Jackson last Saturday which settles forever and all time to come the legal part of the controversy growing out of the consolidation of the schools in the Nineteenth district, the higher court upholding Judge Colin P. McKinney, who held that the act permitting the consolidation of public schools is in keeping with the state's constitution. The case was appealed to the higher court by Mr. Ed Cross, Atkins Gardner and other citizens of the Nineteenth district by their attorney, Judge R. E. Maiden, and the decision of last Saturday sustaining Chancellor McKinney ends the legal part of the controversy, and, we hope, the good people of that splendid district, some of whom opposed and some

others favored the consolidated school will now unite for a bigger and better school.

Another case of considerable interest decided by the supreme court on last Saturday was that of Ben Parker of Martin vs. the state, Parker having been convicted in Judge Jones' court of selling intoxicating liquors, sentenced to six months in jail and fined \$50. He pleaded by way of defense that he only sold cider. Supreme court reversed the lower court on the ground that the state's only witness was an habitual drunkard, who had become prejudiced against Parker. Parker is a paralytic and has been in business in Martin for several years.

Well 422 Feet Deep.

The well for the water plant was completed this week, an abundant supply of water being reached at a depth of 422 feet. Little difficulty was experienced during the sinking of the well, and the water is pronounced to be of an exceptionally fine quality and the stream to be an inexhaustible one. The company putting the well down guarantees it to afford 100,000 gallons daily, and it is now being given a thorough testing to determine if it will afford the amount of water called for in the contract.

the state. No one desires to see a human being forfeit his life as punishment for crime, but I feel that this bill to become a law, as it is understood to be a bill to remove from the statute books the death penalty, would, in my judgment, increase crime and encourage mob law. The death penalty in Tennessee, as punishment, is rarely meted out to criminals, but there is no doubt that it serves to prevent crime. I do not believe it best for the state, the peace and safety of her people for this bill to become a law, and I am therefore returning the same (House bill No. 94) without my approval.

"This May, the 4th, 1915.
"Tom C. Rye, Governor."

CHARGED WITH TILL TAPPING.

The circuit court room here was pretty well filled Tuesday afternoon with some of the best people of Weakley county, a large number of whom were from the town of Latham and vicinity, to hear the preliminary trial of Mr. Gus Reed, a young man of that place, who was charged with taking money from the cash drawer in the store of Winstead & Jones, general merchandise dealers of Latham.

Winstead & Jones, proprietors of the store, were the prosecutors, and the case was tried before Esq. W. W. Fuller, of Dresden, with Hon. R. E. Maiden and R. T. Lewis for the state. Mr. Reed was ably defended by Attorney T. S. Francis, assisted by Hon. J. W. Thomas, of Dresden.

The trial began at 1:30 o'clock. The first witness on the stand was Mr. W. M. Maxey, the manager and salesman at the Winstead & Jones store. Mr. Maxey has been with the firm for several years, and is their confidential man. He was the chief witness in the case, as he was in the store and was selling goods to the defendant when the alleged theft was committed.

All during his testimony Mr. Maxey sucked the juice of a lemon. He is a handsome young man and of prepossessing appearance. His evidence was a straight and perfectly connected narrative from beginning to end.

When questioned by Attorney Lewis, Mr. Maxey said he had been employed by the firm of Winstead & Jones for five years. That the defendant, Mr. Reed, had come into the store last Friday and, taking a position near the cash drawer, had purchased several articles, one at a time, and to get them Mr. Maxey had been compelled to walk around to different parts of the store and leave Mr. Reed standing near the drawer. Counsel for the state had a drawing, a diagram, of the inside of the Winstead & Jones store drawn on a large piece of cardboard, and witness Maxey pointed out the location of the various articles of store furniture on this diagram, showing the counters, show cases, the location of the safe, cash drawer, etc., and explained how some of the store fixtures placed Mr. Reed outside of his range of vision when he went across the store to get one of the articles asked for by Mr. Reed.

It appears that Mr. Reed paid for the articles as he bought them, and, according to the testimony of Mr. Maxey, would then think of something else he wanted, for which Maxey would have to go to another part of the store, while Reed held his position near the cash drawer. Maxey testified that Reed finally asked for change for a five dollar bill, which Maxey gave him, getting the change out of the cash drawer. That Reed had no other money in bills when he gave him the change. That Reed bought a twist of tobacco, and just bought a twist of the same kind the night before. Reed had also bought a can of lubricating oil the day before, but bought another can of oil, saying the first can had leaked out and wasted.

Maxey testified that during all the time Reed had remained in the store he had stood near the cash drawer. That shortly before Reed left the store he opened his purse to pay for one of his purchases, and witness saw other money in

Decoration Day

is nearly here—the day that ushers in warm weather apparel. We'll venture to say that everybody will have something new that day. We specially invite you to come to this store and see our goods and get our prices. We invite you here whether you trade or not. We want you to feel that this is your store and don't think we expect you to buy something because you stop here. We want you to realize that this store is something more than a place to buy things.

Several Ladies' Spring Suits and Coats yet to be sold at same price—Fine assortment of Odd Skirts and Waists—One-Piece Dresses, 50c to \$8.50—Middy blouses, to \$1.50—Fine assortment Ribbons, Laces and Embroidery—Exceptional values in Men's and Boys' Suits, Odd Pants, Shirts, Hats, Shoes and Slippers—Specials in Parasols, Umbrellas, etc.—See our Underwear, Corsets, etc.—Exceptional Values in Ladies' and Men's Silk Hose, a genuine two-thread Silk Hose a 50c., at good assortment of colors.—Don't miss our Silk Hose Counter, 25c to \$1.50 per pair.

Besides making you feel at home here, we are determined to convince you that this store is a place where you get better goods for less money. We want your Eggs, Poultry Beeswax, Hams, Stock Peas, Feathers, Sorghum, etc. Tailoring for men and women a specialty. Butterick Patterns and the Delineator. See us for Real Estate.

Dodd & Son

MARTIN, - - - TENN.

the purse. Testified that once he saw Reed with his back to the cash drawer, as if he was pushing it to shut it. Witness testified that he could not see Reed all the time while he was in the store, as he had to go behind a case that obstructed his view. Testified he had been warned of Reed, but did not state of what he had been warned. Said that cash drawer was in bad condition, that combination keys did not work, nor would the bell on the drawer ring as formerly. A bill book was kept in the back of the cash drawer, and this book usually contained from one hundred to two or three hundred dollars.

Maxey testified that he suspected Reed, and that when Reed finally left the store, Maxey testified he went straight to the cash drawer. He stated he found it open about two inches and had difficulty in pulling it all the way open, owing to the fact that the large bill book was crumpled and wedged between the edge of the drawer; when he did succeed in opening the drawer he found the bill book, as he thought, had been tampered with. During the time that Reed was in the store making his purchases, there had been no one else in the store; Miss Jones, the young saleswoman, was sitting out on the front porch of the store. After Reed left and Maxey saw the condition of the cash drawer, he called Miss Jones in, and they were talking about the matter when Reed returned, saying he had forgotten one of his purchases, and had come back to get it. Maxey confronted Reed and accused him, telling him there had been something crooked, and very crooked. Maxey testified that Reed was under the influence of whiskey, and that Reed talked wildly, saying that they would have to send him over the road if they wanted to, and that he knew

he had been accused of passing counterfeit money. Mr. Reed then demanded to see one of the members of the firm, and learning that neither were present, he left the store. After Reed left Mr. Maxey went over the cash in the drawer and found it to be about \$24 short. Upon cross examination Mr. Maxey admitted that there had been several shortages in the company's business. He stated that he had always been friendly toward the defendant.

The next witness was Miss Charity Jones, a sister of one of the proprietors of the the store. She testified that there had been shortages in the cash accounts of the store unexplained, and also that the cash drawer of the store was in bad condition. She had known Mr. Reed some time, but thought he had not traded there much until lately. Miss Jones is a very pretty young woman, and gave her evidence in a quiet, unhesitating manner. She verified a good deal of what Mr. Maxey had testified to.

The defense offered no evidence in rebuttal, and the case was briefly reviewed by the attorneys. This was the maiden case of Attorney Francis, and he fought like a veteran.

Judge Fuller bound the defendant over to the August term of circuit court, in the sum of \$1,000.

That Mr. Reed was well considered by his neighbors was evinced by the number of good and worthy citizens who clung to him when the time came to sign the bond. His bondsmen are: J. H. Lochridge, J. R. Eskridge, J. W. Wheeler, S. M. Lochridge, Ernest S. Vaughan, S. A. Byars, W. L. Carney, J. H. Reed, B. A. Stow, W. J. Byars and S. T. Reed.

The Enterprise and Commercial Appeal both one year for only \$1.25.